



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

POLREP

Date: June 7, 1995
From: Charles Gebien, OSC, U.S. EPA, Region V
To: Terri Johnson, OSWER (703)603-9116
Rick Karl, EERB
Heidi Valetkevitch, OPA (312)353-1155
Don Bruce, EERB
Bill Messenger, EERB (312)353-9176
Andrew Warren, ORC (312)886-0747
Beth Guria, EERB
Lafayette Robertson, Chicago DOE (312)744-5257
Jim Clark, IEPA Maywood
Subject: West Roosevelt Drum Site
Chicago, IL
Polrep No: 1 (Initial)
Site ID: ON \ CERCLIS# IL0001039056
D.O. No: 5001 - 05 - 372
Response Auth.: CERCLA/Emergency Response
NPL Status: NON-NPL
Start Date: 05/22/95

SITUATION: The West Roosevelt Drum (WRD) site is an approximately 25,000 square foot abandoned granary which contains two buildings and two grain silos. The larger of the two buildings (Building 1) is a two-story brick structure which houses an office area and what appears to be a former grain processing area. The grain processing area contains approximately 300 drums of hazardous wastes including ignitable liquids (D001), acids and caustic corrosives (D002), water reactive aluminum chloride (D003), ethyl phthalate (U088), and other unknown materials. Portions of the roof and second floor in Building 1 have collapsed onto the main floor near the drummed wastes and most of the windows are broken. Although some of the doors and windows in Building 1 have been boarded with plywood, vandals have pulled the plywood from the doors to gain access.

On October 21, 1994, Mr. Crededio, a potential buyer of the site property, filed a report with the Illinois Emergency Management Association (IEMA) regarding unsafe conditions at the site. A board-up company had been retained by WRRC to secure the site. According to the incident report, the board-up "crew was overcome with an acid smell/eye irritant chemical spill from a 55-gallon drum" overturned apparently sometime the previous evening. Mr. Crededio stated the chemical odor could be identified up to 1½ blocks from the site. The report also stated that a Chicago City Police officer, Chris Pataglia, 15th District discovered that Mr. Mike Gheith previously owned the property and used it to house hazardous wastes.

On October 24, 1994, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) was notified of conditions at the site and immediately conducted an inspection of the premises. The leaking drum was labeled thioglycolic acid (a.k.a. mercaptoacetic acid). Thioglycolic acid has a strong irritating odor, is a skin irritant, and is typically classified as a corrosive material. The IEPA measured the pH of the thioglycolic acid and reported a level of 0.0 standard units. IEPA subsequently contracted Riedel Environmental Services (RES) to immediately mobilize to the site to address the leaking drum. RES arrived at the site later that day and overpacked the leaking drum as well as contaminated debris found in the spill area.

The WRD site was designated a 1995 Brownfield Fund Candidate for remediation with the intent to reactivate the property for future commercial use. On January 6, 1995 the CDOE requested assistance from the U.S. EPA in evaluation of threat(s) to public health and/or the environment posed by the site.

On January 27, 1995, the U.S. EPA, the Ecology and Environment (E & E) Technical Assistance Team (TAT), the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), and the Chicago Department of the Environment (CDOE), conducted a site assessment at the WRD site. The site was found to be unsecured by fencing or other means and access to the buildings was easily attained because of open doorways and broken windows. Approximately 300 drums were observed in Building 1, some of which were labeled as hazardous or corrosive materials. Many of the drums had leaked their contents to the floor.

On 4/27, U.S. EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to Mr. Gheith to prepare a workplan for U.S. EPA approval, secure the drummed wastes, and properly dispose of hazardous wastes and hazardous substances found at the site.

During the week of May 15, U.S. EPA discovered that without any notice to U.S. EPA, Mr. Gheith had relocated the drums from the site to Business Assets Corp. (BAC), an auctioneers warehouse, located at 842 N Troy St., Chicago IL.

On May 19, 1995, a delivery order for \$50,000 was issued to initiate emergency actions. The OSC consulted with the IEPA, Chicago DOE, and the U.S. EPA enforcement team and decided to transport the drums back to the site for storage in building 2 until disposal could be arranged. Building 2 is a single story brick structure with steel doors and truck docks. On 5/22 the OSC arranged verbal access with James Stachurski owner of BAC to allow EPA to overpack the drums at 842 Troy St. and remove them from the building.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

The following actions were taken for the period of 5/22/95 thru 6/5/95:

- On 5/22 the OSC, TAT, and ERCS contractor Riedel Environmental Services (RES) mobilized to the site. The RES crew cleared trash in building 2 to allow for set-up of a drum storage area and support zone.
- On 5/23, RES delivered drums and overpacks to the site and spread a load of gravel to improve access to the building 2 dock. The exterior doors of building 2 were repaired and locks were installed as needed to secure the building. Approximately 20 small gas cylinders were gathered from the outdoor area of the site, were overpacked, and the overpack was placed inside building 2. An oxygen gas cylinder and spent PPE was moved from building 1 to building 2 for storage.
- On 5/24, RES initiated the transfer of drums from 842 N.Troy St. to building 2 for storage. Leaking drums were overpacked prior to transportation via the RES boom truck. As arranged with Dennis Ahlberg of IEPA ERU, the loads were not manifested.
- On 5/25, RES completed the transfer of drums to building 2. A total of 209 drums and smaller containers (9 loads) were transported to building 2 and were stored in rows.
- On 5/26, RES and TAT initiated sampling of drums in building 2. Samples were split with Effluent Technology Inc., Mr. Gheith's consultant. The RES crew was demobed for the Memorial Day Holiday.
- On 5/30, sampling of the drums in building 2 continued. RES started hazcatting of the samples.
- On 5/31, RES completed drum sampling and hazcatting continued.
- On 6/1, hazcatting was completed and the Bobcat was demobed.
- On 6/2, the OSC, TAT, and RES reviewed hazcat data to organize waste streams.

NEXT STEPS:

- Coordinate drum sampling with CID for enforcement purposes.
- Prepare disposal samples for each waste stream and arrange analyses at a commercial laboratory.
- Arrange disposal and dispose of drummed wastes and floor sweepings.

KEY ISSUES:

- Additional funding of approximately \$50,000 will be needed for disposal of wastes.

COST INFORMATION:

	TO DATE	CEILING
ERCS (RES)	\$ 20,855*	\$ 50,000
* Estimates based on 1900-55 dated 5/31/95, includes awaits.		